

- (b) if so, the status of the proposals; and
- (c) the time-frame within which these centres would be set up to help them to get good price for their produce and curb distress sale among the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):
(a) No, Sir. The Department of Commerce is not aware of any such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reduction in Tobacco Board Staff

2264. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Peer Committee recommended reduction of staff in Tobacco Board and withdrawal of minimum support price of tobacco within three years; and .
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):
(a) and (b) The Committee has recommended that the production of FCV tobacco be deregulated. A transition period of three years be adopted for moving to a deregulated and market driven regime. The system of MSP be continued during the transition period. The Peer Review Committee has suggested to conduct an Internal Work Study for staff requirement, if considered necessary, after the recommendation of the Committee are implemented.

Export of tobacco

2265. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the volume of tobacco exported from our country, State-wise and year-wise during the last three years; and